line with the existing Regional Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are proposed at Guwahati and Bhopal.

(b) It is envisaged that the Regional Offices at Guwahati and Bhopal would be operational in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(c) These Offices would coordinate between Headquarter of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) and the publishers of the region on the matter relating to registration, title etc.

(d) To cater to the needs of Maharashtra State, a Regional Office of RNI is already functioning at Mumbai.

Withdrawal of private channels from DD Direct Plus

169. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several popular private channels were withdrawing their channels from DD Direct Plus services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for expanding its base of DD Direct Plus in all parts of the country and to face the competition of private companies like Dish TV, Tata sky, Reliance, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) DD Direct Plus has already been upgraded from 33 channels to 41 TV channels. 21 channels of All India Radio are also available on the DD Direct Plus. Unlike private DTH services, DD Direct Plus is not charging any monthly subscription from the viewers. DD Direct Plus signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. All DD Channels are also publicizing this service.

Steps to ban obscene telecast

†170. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether obscenity is being shown uninterruptedly in the whole country and Doordarshan Kendras and private channels are no exception to it;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to amend the Indian Penal Code and Women Representation (prohibition) Act, 1986 and other related Acts;

(c) if so, by when these Acts are likely to be amended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Certain instances of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes have been brought to the notice of the Government, which have been suitably addressed.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to amend the Indian Penal Code and Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Child labour in carpet and glass industry

171. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of child labour is still working in Carpet and Glass Industry in the country in violation of the rules and laws made for their protection and safeguard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not protecting the children; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Union Government to achieve complete eradication of the child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per 2001 Census, 32,647 children in the age group of 5-14 years are working in Carpet industry and 5,758 children in Glass industry. Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations/processes. For the elimination of child labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from hazardous work are put into Special Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc., before they are mainstreamed into regular education system. State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Difference between daily wages provided to men and women

†172. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that according to the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) there is difference between daily wages provided to men and women in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the difference between the wages and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to ensure that women also get daily wages equal to men?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The difference of wages between women and men in the rural areas is Rs. 59.40. The average wage of woman and man per day are Rs. 85.53 and Rs. 144.93 respectively in rural area. This disparity in wages could be attributed to existing social norms and practices as well as inadequate accounting of the overall work output of women in rural areas.

(c) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.